

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is provided below.

1. (Currently Amended): A hard film formed of a material containing a $(M_{1-x}Si_x)(C_{1-d}N_d)$ compound, wherein M is Cr ~~at least one of elements in groups 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A and Al,~~ $0.55 \leq x \leq 0.98$ and $0 \leq d \leq 1$, where x, 1-x, d and 1-d are atomic ratios of Si, M, N and C, respectively, and the hard film has a combination of lubricity, low friction coefficient of less than 0.01μ , wear resistance provided by a hardness of 1900-2200 HV, small specific abrasion loss of 1.20×10^{-8} - 5.50×10^{-8} mm³/N-m, and adhesion of 55-67 N to a substrate in an aqueous environment.

2. (Previously Presented): The hard film according to claim 1, wherein the material further contains O in an atomic ratio in the range of 0.01 to 0.2.

3. (Original): The hard film according to claim 1, wherein diffraction peak half width of a (111)-plane of the $(M_{1-x}Si_x)(C_{1-d}N_d)$ compound measured by x-ray diffraction is 1.5° or above.

Claim 4: (Canceled).

Claim 5: (Withdrawn): A laminated hard film formed by alternately superposing the hard film according to claim 1, and a hard film formed of a material containing a $(M_{1-x}Si_x)(C_{1-d}N_d)$ compound at a stacking period in the range of 1 to 1000 nm,

wherein M is at least one of elements of groups 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A and Al, $0 \leq x \leq 0.45$ and $0 \leq d \leq 1$, where x, 1-x, d and 1-d are atomic ratios of Si, M, N and C, respectively.

Claim 6: (Canceled).

7. (New) The hard film according to claim 1, wherein $0.6 \leq x \leq 0.98$.

8. (New) The hard film according to claim 1, wherein $0.6 \leq x \leq 0.9$.

9. (New) The hard film according to claim 1, wherein $0.7 \leq x \leq 0.9$.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the pending claims and newly-added Claims 7-9 are supported by the specification. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.